

In the Claims:

Sub B1
Claim 1 (amended). A functional monitoring system,
comprising:

a transmitting and receiving station configured to transmit an
interrogation code signal; and

A1
a plurality of transponders each configured to respond to the
interrogation code signal upon receiving the interrogation
code signal by generating and simultaneously transmitting in
temporal synchronization a response signal to said
transmitting and receiving station.

Sub B1
Claim 14 (amended). A method of operating a functional
monitoring system having a transmitting and receiving station,
and a plurality of transponders, the method which comprises:

A2
transmitting an interrogation code signal with a transmitting
and receiving station; and

simultaneously, in temporal synchronization, responding with
each of a plurality of transponders receiving the
interrogation code signal by transmitting a response signal.

~~Sub A3 B1~~ claim 18 (amended). The method according to claim 14, which comprises synchronizing the transponders for transmitting the response signal in synchronization.